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2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted], WHD

13 June 1952

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Anti-Communist disorders in Guatemala

The following reports have been received from overt sources and are sent for your information:

1) From the New York Times, Wednesday, 11 June 1952

"Anti-Communists have created 'disturbances' - including the temporary seizure of a border garrison - in a number of Guatemalan provincial towns recently, the Interior Ministry said tonight.

"The Ministry said 'several' persons had been killed in the battle for the garrison at Larada and in a simultaneous outbreak in the nearby town of Camotan. Press reports said at least six persons died in the two clashes. The Ministry announced also that two persons had been arrested on undisclosed charges.

"Interior Minister Ricardo Chavez Nackman said the Government was in full control of the situation.

"Senor Chavez Nackman charged that the disorders had been 'instigated by anti-Communists'.

"The Guatemalan Government has been strongly pro-Communist for more than seven years. Anti-Communists have been demanding with increasing insistence in recent weeks that the Communist Party be outlawed and known Reds dismissed from Government jobs."

2) Teletype wire service in L Building - dated 12 June 1952

"The Minister of Interior, Lic. Ricardo Chavez Nackman, declared this morning that the Government has not considered the possibility of decreeing the restriction of constitutional guarantees at present in view of the various terroristic actions carried out by the reactionaries

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in the departments of Chiquimula, Suchitepeque, Quetzaltenango, and Guatemala. Although the incidents are serious the Government of the Republic believes that at the present time it will not be necessary to establish a state of Siege because its stability is firm and order prevails throughout the country."

We have received no confirmation of the above reports from our own sources.

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WH/Branch III